

Remarks

Claims 1 through 8, 15, 16, and 18 through 23 are now pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to present the invention as a tire with a component of a rubber composition comprised of elastomer(s) consisting of specified elastomers and further limiting the organo-metal material of the rubber composition to specific organo-tin compounds.

Amended claim 1 is intended to exclude polyurethane based elastomers.

The election of claims 1 through 8 and 14 through 25 in response to the Examiner's Restriction requirement is hereby confirmed.

The Rejection

The following U.S. patent has been relied upon to reject various of the Applicants' claims:

<u>U.S. Patents</u>	
3,897,386	Sanda, Jr. (Sanda)

Claims 1 through 8 and 14 through 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanda, Jr., (U.S. Patent No. 3,897,386).

The Invention

It is important to appreciate that the invention of the Applicants' amended claims is directed to a tire with a component (e.g. a tread) composed of one or more elastomers consisting of at least one of diene-based polymers and copolymers of isoprene and/or 1,3-butadiene and copolymers of isoprene and/or 1,3-butadiene with styrene or alpha methylstyrene together with silica-based material reinforcement and an organo-tin material.

Discussion

The applied Sanda reference is directed to a tire with a polyurethane tread and polyurethane carcass (e.g. a polyurethane carcass spin cast against a pre-prepared polyurethane tread). The described tread which contains a dibutyltin dilaurate is a polyurethane prepared

from a polyisocyanate rather than a diene-based elastomer. The polyurethane used for the Sanda tread is described as being prepared, for example, with a dibutyltin dilaurate catalyst.

Clearly, Sanda is not directed to a tire with a tread of a diene-based elastomer composition which contains dibutyltin dilaurate. Sanda's only use of a dibutyltin dilaurate is for a catalyst for converting a polyisocyanate to a polyurethane for a tire component (e.g. tire tread).


Clearly, the Applicants' amended claims are not directed to a tire with a polyurethane tread and, indeed, are intended to exclude a polyurethane tire tread.

Accordingly, it is contended that the Sanda reference does not make out a prima facie case of obviousness of the invention of the Applicants' amended claims under the requirements of 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the amendments made to the claims and comments herein it is contended that the Applicant's amended claims are patentably distinct from the Sanda, Jr. reference.

Respectfully submitted,


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